



**Energy Information Administration**

*Official Energy Statistics from the U.S. Government*

**Coal Distribution Database  
2Q 2009**

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## Coal Distribution Database, 2Q 2009

The 2Q 2009 Coal Distribution database is a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet file named CDR\_2Q09.xls. The spreadsheet contains 546 records and provides aggregated volumes for coal by origin State, destination State, consumer type, and transportation mode. The volumes represent short tons for the second quarter of calendar year 2009. This database replaces the multiple Excel spreadsheet files for both origin and destination by individual state that were previously distributed by EIA prior to 2007.

This database and data for previous years are available from the EIA website located at the following url:

[http://www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/coal/page/coaldistrib/coal\\_distributions.html](http://www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/coal/page/coaldistrib/coal_distributions.html)

### Quarterly Coal Distribution Table Format and Data Sources

In keeping with EIA's efforts to increase the timeliness of its reports, this Quarterly Coal Distribution Report is a preliminary report, based on the most current data available from EIA's various monthly, quarterly and annual surveys of the coal industry and electric power generation industry. The final report will rely on the receipt of annual data to replace the imputed monthly data for smaller electric generation plants that are excluded from the monthly filing requirement, and final data for all other respondents.

The Coal Distribution Report traces coal from the origin State to the destination State by transportation mode. The data sources beginning with the 2008 Coal Distribution Report reflect a major revision to EIA data collection surveys. The EIA-6A, "Coal Distribution Report – Annual," was discontinued at the end of 2007 and the new EIA-923, "Power Plant Operations Report" became the source of data for the electric generation sector. In 2008, almost 93 percent of the coal distributed was received by electric generation plants.

The Residential & Commercial consuming sector has been replaced by the Commercial & Institutional sector, which excludes the residential sector and small amounts of coal used in the transportation fuel sector (primarily tourist steam railroads).

Previously, on the EIA-6A survey form, it was not possible to identify refuse or waste coal<sup>1</sup>, which was included in anthracite and bituminous distributions. Waste coal receipts are collected and separately identified on the EIA-923 and are especially significant in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The EIA-923 data facilitate the identification and exclusion of waste coal. It is anticipated that EIA will introduce a separate set of tables to report on the distribution of waste coal.

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<sup>1</sup> **Waste coal:** Usable material that is a byproduct of previous coal processing operations. Waste coal is usually composed of mixed coal, soil, and rock (mine waste). Most waste coal is burned as-is in unconventional fluidized-bed combustors. For some uses, waste coal may be partially cleaned by removing some extraneous noncombustible constituents. Examples of waste coal include fine coal, coal obtained from a refuse bank or slurry dam, anthracite culm, bituminous gob, and lignite waste.

Coal exports previously reported on the EIA-6A, are now obtained from the modified EIA-7A, "Coal Production and Preparation Report." Coal exports may differ from the volumes reported in the EIA Quarterly Coal Report (QCR). Volumes reported in the QCR are obtained from the Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, "Monthly Report EM 545." It is expected that differences would arise in the results of the surveys due to differences in survey frame populations, survey errors, assumptions and definitions. For example, in 2008 the Coal Distribution Report shows exports as 65,820 thousand short tons while the QCR shows exports of 81,519 thousand short tons.

#### **Key to Consumer Type Codes.**

The table below provides a translation of the Consumer Type Codes found in the 1Q 2009 Coal Distribution Database.

<b>Consumer Type</b>	<b>Type of Consumer</b>
CP	Coke Plant
EG	Electric Generation
EX	Export Coal
MF	Industrial Plants Excluding Coke
IC	Institutional/Commercial

It is also noted that Destination State code of "X Export" indicates movements to foreign destinations. Coal exports are not included in this Quarterly CDR, but will be reported in the 2009 annual CDR.

Appendix A reviews the methodology used to assign missing data when respondents submitted EIA-923 reports with blank entries for origin State and transportation mode.